

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 /038 W

----- 008765

R 231500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

UFHNA/USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS 522

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0268

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU, EC

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER VISITS UK

ON APRIL 23, MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE WURTH BRIEFED DCM ON PRIME MINISTER THORN'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO LONDON THE DAY BEFORE WHERE HE MET WILSON AND CALLAGHAN. WURTH SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE USED BY THORN TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE OF HMG'S PRESENT COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, IF THE JUNE REFERENDUM ALLOWS THE UK TO REMAIN IN THE EC. ON THIS POINT, THORN WAS STRUCK BY WHAT HE CONSIDERED HMG'S FUNDAMENTAL "ANTI-EUROPEANISM". THORN ASCRIBES PART OF HMG'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM TO PRE-REFERENDUM STRATEGY, BUT HE ALSO DETECTS A BASIC BRITISH HOSTILITY TO VIRTUALLY ANY FUTURE MOVE TOWARD SUPRANATIONALITY OR INTEGRATION. ACCORDING TO WURTH, THORN AND THE BRITISH

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LEADERS FOUND THEMSELVES IN ALMOST TOTAL DISAGREEMENT ON

THE FUTURE OF THE EC. WHEN THORN REALIZED THAT CALLAGHAN WAS UNCONVINCED BY THE ARGUMENTS FOR ACCELERATED EC INTEGRATION, THE PRIME MINISTER ADVANCED THE VIEW THAT A EUROPEAN STRUCTURE WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CONTAIN FRG ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER ON THE CONTINENT. TO THORN'S SURPRISE, CALLAGHAN REPLIED THAT HMG HAD NEVER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THIS ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF A UNITED EUROPE, ALTHOUGH CALLAGHAN ADMITTED THAT HE FOUND IT PERSUASIVE. ON CSCE, THORN REPORTED WILSON AND CALLAGHAN EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SOVIET DEMANDS FOR A SUMMER SUMMIT. HMG BELIEVES THAT BREZHNEV'S IMPATIENCE SHOULD BE USED AS LEVERAGE BY THE WEST TO WREST FURTHER SOVIET CONCESSIONS, ESPECIALLY ON BASKET III.FARKAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUXEMB00268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750143-0161
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750425/aaaaaxcf.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER VISITS UK ON APRIL 23, MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE WURTH BRIEFED
TAGS: PFOR, LU, UK, EEC, (WURTH, PIERRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006